

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments above and the remarks below. Claims 21, 22, 24-27, 29-35 and 45-47 are currently pending, of which claims 21, 22, 24, 45, 46 and 47 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 21, 22, 24-27, 29-35 and 45-47. Claims 21, 22, 45 and 46 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended claims 21, 22, 45 and 46 into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 5-12, 17-19, 39, 41-44 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0018251 to Solomon in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0097805 to Verard. This rejection is obviated by the cancellation of each those claims. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims in a continuation application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on September 29, 2006. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of the references cited therein by returning a signed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the IDS.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. The Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal

communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.


Prompt and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,
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